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THINKING RIGHT IS LIVING RIGHT

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Frank Schell Ballentine

Thinking Right
Is
Living Right

A Book of Enlightening Passages from the Bible for Every-day Needs

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HENRY ALTEMUS COMPANY
PHILADELPHIA

1917

BS 391
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No. 1

INTRODUCTION

This is the day of child-saving race cultivation, and health talks. The Pennsylvania State Commissioner recently said in one of his reports: "No person or nation can live on itself. The highest degree of physical health comes only with a healthy brain. When one begins to live on one's self, death follows."

The same eternal law holds good in the spiritual world. The brain cannot attain to the highest degree of efficiency and of power without a healthy heart.

A healthy head, a healthy heart, and a healthy soul, each beating in harmony with the other, is absolutely necessary to a wholly healthy man, woman, or child. For just as the whole body is sick and weakly when any one of its members is injured or diseased, so the whole man is sick when any part, head, heart, or soul, is in any way affected or incapacitated.

To be a well-balanced, healthy, and robust human being, then, we must not only eat and

sleep regularly and temperately, for the good of the physical body; we must read and study and work rationally for the proper development of the brain. We must also see to it that we get wholesome and nourishing food regularly for the growth and development of the soul's spiritual self.

This brings the only kind of thinking, at all worth our while. This is "thinking right" for time and for eternity. This is the only kind of thinking which is "right thinking"—"the thinking right" which is "living right." Thinking from a purely intellectual point of view is a one-sided thinking. It is a matter of the head only. It is not instinct with the life of the whole of one's being. It is, therefore, far from the wholesome process of "thinking right." For "thinking right" can only be accomplished when head, heart, and soul are involved, each in its due order, in bringing thought to fruition. Then, when thus brought forth, heart and soul, as well as mind, give it their quota of life. The feelings as well as cold intellect enter into it, and "living right" of necessity follows.

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Thinking Right Is Living Right

When You Are Lonely

The Lord is my Shepherd.
I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside the still waters.
He restores my soul.
He leads me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
Yes, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil.
For you are with me. Your rod and your staff—
They comfort me.
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil. My cup runs over.
Surely goodness and mercy will follow me
All the days of my life.
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord
For ever.

Psalm 23.

When Men Fail You

The Lord is my light and my salvation.
Whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the strength of my life.
Of whom shall I be afraid?
When the wicked—my enemies and my foes—
came on me to eat up my flesh
They stumbled and fell.
Though a host should encamp against me,
My heart will not be afraid.
Though war should rise against me,
In this will I be confident.

Psalm 27: 1-3.

When Friends Fail You

One thing have I desired of the Lord,
That will I seek after,
That I may dwell in the house of the Lord
All the days of my life,
To look at the beauty of the Lord,
And to inquire in his temple.
For in the time of trouble he will hide me
In his pavilion.
In the secret of his tabernacle
Will he hide me. He will set me up on a rock.
And now will my head be lifted up
Above my enemies round about me.
So will I offer in his tabernacle sacrifices of joy.
I will sing. Yes, I will sing praises to the
Lord.

Hear, O Lord, when I cry with my voice.
Have mercy also on me, and answer me.
When you said: Seek my face,
My heart said to you: Your face, Lord, will I seek.
Don't hide your face from me.
Don't put your servant away in anger.
You have been my help. Don't leave me.
Neither forsake me, O God of my salvation.
Psalm 27:4-9.

When Friends Are Untrue

Now all the political grafters and bad people were coming near Jesus to listen to him. And both the Pharisees and the scribes complained, saying: "This man welcomes bad people, and eats with them."

So Jesus spoke to them this parable, saying: "What man of you, who has a hundred sheep, and has lost one of them, doesn't leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the lost one till he finds it? And when he has found it, he puts it on his shoulders, rejoicing, and when he comes home, he calls his friends, and his neighbors together, saying to them: Rejoice with me, because I have found my sheep which was lost.

"I say to you, that in the same way, there will be joy in heaven over one bad person who changes his mind, more than over ninety-nine

good people such as have no need of a change of mind.

"Or what woman who has ten pieces of silver, if she lose one piece, doesn't light a lamp, and sweep the house, and search carefully till she finds it. And when she has found it she calls her women friends and neighbors together, saying: Rejoice with me because I have found the piece which I had lost. In the same way, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one bad person who changes his mind."

And he said: "A certain man had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father: Father, give me the share of the property which is coming to me.

"So he divided the estate for them.

"And not many days after, the younger son gathered everything together, and went abroad to a distant land, and there squandered his property by a ruinous style of living. And when he had spent everything, a severe famine spread through that land, and he began to be in want. And he went and engaged himself to one of the citizens of that land; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he longed to feed himself with the bean pods on which the swine were feeding. And no one gave to him.

"But he came to himself, and said: How many of my father's hired men have more bread than they need, and I am here starving to death! I

will rise and go to my father, and will say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in your sight, and I am no longer fit to be called your son. Make me as one of your hired men.

"So he rose and went to his father.

"But while he was still a great way off, his father saw him, and it touched his heart, and he ran, and fell on his neck, and gave him a hearty kiss.

"And the son said to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in your sight, and am no more worthy to be called your son.

"But the father said to his slaves: Be quick. Bring out a robe—the best you can find—and put it on him; and give him a ring for his finger, and shoes for his feet; and bring the young bull that has been fattening, and kill it, and let us eat and be merry. Because this son of mine was dead and is alive again. He was lost, and is found.

"So they began to be merry.

"But his older son was in the field; and as he came nearer and nearer the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the slaves, and asked what these things meant. And he said to him: Your brother has come, and your father has killed the young bull that has been fattening, because he has received him back safe and sound.

"But he was angry, and would not go in. So his father came out and begged him. But he answered and said to his father: Listen! These

many years have I been your slave, and not even once disobeyed you, and to me not even once have you given a kid, that I might make merry with my friends. But when this son of yours came who has been eating up your estate with bad women, you killed for him the fattened bull.

"And he said to him: Child, you are always with me, and everything that is mine is yours. But to make merry and be glad was our duty, because this brother of yours was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found."

Luke 15.

When You Are Discouraged

When the Lord turned again the captivity of Zion,
We were like those who dream.
Then was our mouth filled with laughing,
And our tongue with singing.
Then they said among the heathen:
The Lord has done great things for them.
The Lord has done great things for us.
We are glad.
Turn again our captivity, O Lord!
As the rivers in the South.
Those who sow in tears
Will reap in joy.
He who goes out and weeps,
Carrying precious seed,
Will surely come again with rejoicing,
Bringing his sheaves with him.

Psalm 126.

Have you not known? Have you not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, neither faints, nor is weary?

There is no searching of his understanding.

He gives power to the faint, and to those of no might he increases strength. Even the youths will faint and be weary; and the young men will utterly fall. But those who wait on the Lord, will renew their strength. They will mount up with wings as eagles. They will run, and not be weary. They will walk, and not faint.

Isaiah 40:28-31.

When In Sorrow

"Don't let your heart be troubled. Believe in God, that is, believe in me. In my Father's house are many abiding places. If it were not so, I would have told you. I am going to prepare a place for you. And since I am going to prepare a place for you, I am coming again, and shall receive you to myself; that where I am, you also may be. And where I am going you know the way."

Thomas said to him: "Lord, we don't know where you are going; and how can we know the way?"

Jesus said to him: "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father, but through me. If you had learned to know me,

you would have known my Father, also. Hereafter you will learn to know him, in fact, you have seen him."

Philip said to him: "Lord, show us the Father, and we are satisfied."

Jesus said to him: "Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not recognized me, Philip? He who has seen me has seen the Father! How do you say: Show us the Father? Do you not believe I am in the Father, and the Father in me? The words I am speaking to you, I am not speaking from myself, but the Father dwelling in me is doing his deeds. Believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in me; or else believe me on account of the deeds themselves. Most truly I tell you: He who believes in me will also do the deeds which I do. And greater deeds than these will he do; because I am going to the Father. And whatever you shall ask in my name that will I do; that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you shall ask anything in my name I will do it.

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments, and I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper to be with you forever—the Spirit of Truth, which the world cannot receive because it doesn't see it, nor recognize it. But you recognize it; because it remains with you and will be in you.

"I will not leave you orphans. I am coming to you. Yet a little while and the world will see

me no more. But you will see me; because I live, and you shall live. On that day you will recognize that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.

"He who has my commandments, and keeps them, is the one who loves me. And he who loves me, will be loved by my Father, and I will love him, and will make myself known to him.

"These things have I spoken to you while still present with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, which the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of everything I have said to you.

"Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives, do I give to you.

"Don't let your heart be troubled, nor let it be cowardly.

"You heard me say to you: I am going away, and I am coming to you. If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I am going to the Father: because the Father is greater than I.

"And now I have told you before it comes, that, when it comes, you may believe.

"I will no longer talk much with you, for the prince of the world is coming, and has nothing in me. But this has come, that the world may know I love the Father, and I do just as the Father commanded me.

"Rise! Let us go from here!"

John 14.

Out of the depths have I cried to you, O Lord.
Lord, hear my voice.
Let your ears be attentive
To the voice of my supplications.
If you, Lord, should mark iniquities,
O Lord, who shall stand?
But there is forgiveness with you,
That you may be revered.
I wait for the Lord. My soul waits.
And in his word do I hope.
My soul waits for the Lord
More than they who watch for the morning.
They who watch for the morning.
Yet I shall hope in the Lord.
For with the Lord there is mercy
And with him is abundant redemption.
And he will redeem Israel
Out of all his iniquities.

Psalm 130.

When Your Faith Needs Stirring

Now faith is confidence in things hoped for, a conviction with reference to things not seen. For in it our fathers had noble testimony borne to them.

By faith we understand that the worlds were created and still exist at the command of God, so that what we see has not been made out of visible things.

By faith Abel offered to God a more accept-

able sacrifice than Cain, and through it he was informed that he was righteous, God testifying concerning his gifts. And through it, though dead, he still speaks.

By faith Enoch was taken from earth so that he might not see death, and was not found, because God had taken him. For, before God had taken him, he was given to understand that he pleased God. But without faith it is impossible to please him. For he who comes to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of those who diligently seek him.

By faith Noah, divinely instructed about things not yet seen, showing reverence for God, prepared an ark to the saving of his family. Through this he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed; when he was called, that is, to go out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.

By faith Abraham, when he was put to the test, offered up Isaac. Yes, he who had gladly received the promises, was on the point of offering up his only begotten son; that is, he to whom it was said: In Isaac shall a seed be called for you. For he considered that God is able to raise up, even from the dead; and, figuratively speaking, he did receive him from the dead.

By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau even with reference to things to come.

By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph; and worshipped, as he leaned on the top of his staff.

By faith Joseph, when he was approaching his end, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel; and gave directions about his bones.

By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's decree.

By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; choosing rather to be abused with the people of God, than to enjoy the short-lived pleasures of sin; considering the reproach of the Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt. For he looked away to the recompense of reward.

By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king. For he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.

By faith he kept the passover, and the sprinkling of the blood, that the destroyer of the first born might not touch them.

By faith they passed through the Red Sea as by dry land. But when the Egyptians tried to do this, they were swallowed up.

By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they had been surrounded for seven days.

By faith Rahab the harlot was not slain with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies with peace.

And what more shall I say? For the time will fail me, if I tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jepthah; about David and Samuel, and the prophets; who through faith conquered kingdoms, brought about righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, controlled the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, from weakness were made strong, became valiant in war, put armies of foreigners to flight. Women received their dead back to life. And others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Others were cruelly mocked and beaten, yes, more, they were put in chains and imprisoned.

They were stoned, they were sawn to pieces, were tempted, were put to the sword. They went about in sheepskins, in goatskins. They were destitute, afflicted, ill-treated.

Of them the world was not worthy.

They wandered in deserts and mountains, and hid in caves and holes in the ground.

And though all these had noble testimony borne to them through their faith, they did not receive the promise, since God had provided some better things for us, that they, apart from us, should not be made perfect.

Hebrews 11.

When You Are All Out of Sorts

For this reason, then, let us, also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin which entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race which is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the prince and perfecter of the faith, who, for the joy which was set before him, endured the cross, despised shame, and has taken his seat on the right hand of the throne of God. For, if you would not become weary and faint-hearted, consider him who endured such hostility of bad people against himself.

Your resistance has not yet come to the spilling of blood, in your struggle against sin. And you have forgotten the encouragement which comes to you as to sons.

My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord,
Nor faint when you are tried by him.
For whom the Lord loves he disciplines,
And chastises every son whom he acknowledges.

It is for discipline you endure. It is as with sons God is dealing with you. For who is the son whom his father does not discipline. But if you have had no discipline of which all have had a share, then you are bastards, and not sons.

And further, we used to have our natural fathers to discipline us, and we respected them. Shall we not much rather submit to the Father of spirits and live? For they disciplined us for a few days as they thought best. But he does it for our good, so that we may partake of his holiness. Now, at the time, no discipline seems to be pleasant, but painful. But afterward it yields peaceable fruit of goodness for those who have been trained by it.

For this reason, strengthen the weakened hands, and the palsied knees, and make straight paths for your feet, that what is lame may not be made worse, but may rather be cured.

Strive earnestly to be at peace with every one, and to attain to that holiness, without which no one will see the Lord; taking care that no one is falling away from the favor of God; that no root of bitterness is springing up, and troubling you, and by it many are being defiled; that there be no fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one mess of food sold his own birthright. For you know that even when he afterward desired to obtain the blessing, he was rejected. For he found no way to change his father's mind, though he begged earnestly for the blessing with tears.

See that you do not refuse to listen to him who speaks. For, if they did not escape when they refused to listen to him who warned them on earth, much less shall we escape, if we turn

away from him who warns us from heaven. His voice, at that time, shook the earth. But now he has promised, saying: Yet again will I once for all cause not only the earth to tremble, but also heaven. And this expression: Yet again once for all, has reference to the removing of what can be shaken, as of what has been made, that what can not be shaken may remain. For this reason, since we are receiving a rule which can not be shaken, let us be thankful, and so offer services pleasing to God with reverence and awe. For our God is a consuming fire.

Hebrews 12.

When Losing Confidence in Men

Though I pour forth the utterances of men and of angels,
And have not love
I have become resounding brass, or a clanging cymbal.
And though I have the gift of preaching,
And know all mysteries and possess all knowledge,
And though I have all faith so as to remove mountains,
And have not love,
I am nothing.

And though I dole out to the hungry in mouthfuls all I possess,

And though I give up my body to be burned,
And have not love,
I am in no way profited.
Love is patient and kind.
Love is neither envious nor jealous.
Love does not boast.
Is not conceited,
Does not behave unbecomingly,
Is not self-seeking,
Is not irritated,
Takes no account of evil;
Does not rejoice in wickedness,
But rejoices with the truth;
Bears everything,
Believes everything,
Hopes everything,
Endures everything.
Love never fails.
But even if there are gifts of preaching, they will be done away,
Even if there are utterances, they will cease.
Even if there is knowledge, it will be done away.
For we know imperfectly,
And we preach imperfectly,
But when perfection has come,
Imperfection will be done away.

When I was a child,
I talked as a child,
I felt as a child,
I thought as a child.

But now that I have become a man,
I have given up the ways of a child.
For as yet we see things dimly as in a poor mirror,
But then, face to face.
As yet I know partially.
But then shall I fully know, just as also I am known.
So, as it is, there abide faith, hope, love,
These three;
But the greatest of these,
Love.

1 Corinthians 13.

When Skeptical

This is the will of my Father, that every one who sees the Son, and believes in him, should have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.

John 6:40.

If any one wills to do his will, he will learn to know about the teaching, whether it is from God, or whether I speak from myself.

John 7:17.

And for that reason God highly exalted him; and gave him the name which is above every name; that in the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven, and of those on

earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2:9-11.

When You Have Sinned

Jesus addressed this parable to some who believed in their own goodness, and treated every one else with scorn.

"Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a political grafter. The Pharisee stood, and prayed to himself in this way: O God, I thank you I'm not just like the rest of men; thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this political grafter. I fast twice a week. I give a tenth of all I get.

"But the political grafter, standing at a distance, would not raise so much as his eyes to heaven, but kept striking his breast, saying: God, be merciful to me the sinner!

"I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other. For every one who exalts himself will be humbled. But he who humbles himself will be exalted."

As Jesus was coming near Jericho a certain blind man was sitting beside the road begging. So hearing a crowd going by he inquired what this meant. And they told him, Jesus the Nazarene was going by. So he cried out, saying: "Jesus, son of David, take pity on me!"

But those who were going before sternly told him to be quiet. But he called out the louder a great deal: "Son of David, take pity on me!"

Then Jesus stood, and directed him to be brought to him. And when he had come near, he asked him: "What do you want me to do for you?"

He said: "Lord, I want to recover my sight."

So Jesus said to him: "Recover your sight. Your faith has cured you."

And instantly he recovered his sight, and followed him, glorifying God. And when all the people saw it they gave praise to God.

As Jesus was passing by, he saw a man blind from his birth.

And his disciples asked him, saying: "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

Jesus answered: "Neither did this man sin, nor his parents; but this happened that God's deeds might be made known in him. We must do the deeds of him who sent me, while it is day. The night is coming, when no one can work. So long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

When he had spoken this way he spat on the ground, made clay of the spittle, anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay, and said to him: "Go to the pool of Siloam, and wash." Siloam means Sent.

So he went away, and washed, and came, seeing.

Then the neighbors, and those who had formerly known him by sight as a beggar, said: "Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?"

Some said: "This is the man."

Others said: "No, but he is like him."

The man himself said: "I am the man."

So they said to him: "How, then, were your eyes opened?"

He answered: "The man called Jesus made clay, and anointed my eyes, and said to me: Go to Siloam, and wash. So I went away and washed, and regained my sight."

They said to him: "Where is he?"

He said: "I don't know."

They took the man who had been blind to the Pharisees.

Now the day Jesus made the clay, and opened his eyes was the Sabbath.

So again the Pharisees also asked him how he had regained his sight.

And he said to them: "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see."

So some of the Pharisees said: "This man is not from God, because he does not keep the Sabbath."

But others said: "How can a man who is bad give such signs?"

There was a division among them.

So they again said to the blind man: "What

do you say about him, seeing he opened your eyes?"

He said: "He is a prophet."

The Jews, however, did not believe about him, that he had been blind, and had recovered his sight, till they had called the parents of him who had recovered his sight, and asked them, saying: "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How, then, does he now see?"

His parents answered, and said: "We know this is our son, and that he was born blind. But by what means he now sees, we do not know; or who opened his eyes, we do not know. Ask him. He is of age. He shall speak for himself."

His parents said this, because they were afraid of the Jews. For the Jews had already agreed, that if any one should acknowledge Jesus as the Christ, he should be excommunicated. That is why his parents said: "He is of age. Ask him."

So, a second time, they called the man who had been blind, and said to him: "Give God the honor. We know this is a bad man."

So he answered: "If he is a bad man, I don't know. One thing I do know, that I was blind, and now I see."

So they said to him: "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?"

He answered them: "I just now told you, and you didn't listen. Why do you want to hear it again? You also don't want to become his disciples, do you?"

Then they reviled him, and said: "You are that man's disciple. But we are Moses' disciples. We know God has spoken to Moses. But as for this fellow we don't know where he comes from."

The man answered, and said to them: "Well, that is strange, indeed, that you don't know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know God does not listen to bad people. But if any one is a worshipper of God, and does his will, to him he listens. Since the world began it has not been heard that any one has opened the eyes of one born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing."

They answered, and said to him: "You were born totally depraved, and do you teach us?"

They excommunicated him.

Jesus heard that they had excommunicated him; so finding him, he said: "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

He answered, and said: "Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?"

Jesus said to him: "You have both seen him, and it is the man who is talking with you."

He said: "I believe, sir." And he did him homage.

Then Jesus said: "For judgment did I come into this world, that those who do not see, may see. And that those who see, may become blind."

Then some of the Pharisees who were with

him heard these words, and said to him: "We also are not blind, are we?"

Jesus said to them: "If you were blind, you would have no sin. But, as it is, you say: 'We see.' So your sin remains."

Luke 18:9-14, and 18:35-43, and John 9.

Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.
Psalm 2:12.

When You Cannot Have Your Own Way

My brothers, don't many of you become teachers, knowing that we will receive heavier judgment. For we make many mistakes, all of us.

If any one does not offend in word, he is a perfect man, able to bridle his whole body also.

Now when we put the horses' bits into their mouths that they may obey us, we turn about their whole body also.

Look also at the ships. Large as they are, and driven by rough winds, they are controlled by a very small rudder, and steered in whatever direction the man at the helm may determine.

In the same way, also, the tongue is a little member, and boasts great things. See how great a wood a little fire sets ablaze! And the tongue is a fire. Among the members of our body it proves itself a very world of mischief. It contaminates the whole body, and sets the machinery of life afire, and is set on fire by hell. For

every kind of beasts and birds, of creeping things, and things in the sea, is tamed, and has been tamed by mankind; but the tongue can no one tame. It is an uncontrollable evil. It is full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father; and with it we curse men, who are made according to the likeness of God. Out of the same mouth come blessing and cursing.

My brother, these things ought not to be thus. The wisdom which is from above is first pure, then peaceable, forbearing, persuasive, full of compassion and good deeds, impartial, sincere. And the seed, of which goodness is the fruit, is sown in peace by those who make peace.

James 3.

I beg you, then, I the prisoner of the Lord, to walk worthily of the call with which you were called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with each other in Love, earnestly striving to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

To each one of us has grace been given in proportion to the extent of the free gift of the Christ.

Be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new man, who, in accordance with God, has been created in goodness and holiness of the truth.

Ephesians 4: 1, 2, 3, 7, 23, 24.

When You Are Sorry For Sin

Have mercy on me, O God,
According to your loving kindness.
According to the multitude of your tender mercies
Blot out my transgressions.
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
And cleanse me from my sin.
For I acknowledge my transgressions,
And my sin is ever before me.
Against you, you only, have I sinned,
And done this evil in your sight;
That you might be justified when you speak,
Be clear when you judge.
Behold, you desire truth in the inward parts;
And in the hidden part you will make me know wisdom.
Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean.
Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
Make me hear joy and gladness,
That the bones you have broken may rejoice.
Hide your face from my sins,
And blot out all my iniquities.
Create in me a clean heart, O God;
And renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence;
And do not take your holy spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation;
And uphold me with your free spirit.

Then will I teach transgressors your ways,
And sinners will be converted to you.
Deliver me from blood guiltiness, O God.
You God of my salvation;
And my tongue will sing aloud
Of your goodness.
O Lord, open my lips,
And my mouth will show forth your praise.
For you do not desire sacrifice,
Or I would give it to you.
You do not delight in burnt offering.
The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;
A broken and a contrite heart, O God,
You will not despise.
Do good in your good pleasure to Zion,
Build the walls of Jerusalem.
Then will you be pleased
With the sacrifices of goodness,
With burnt offering, and whole burnt offering.
Then will they offer bullocks on your altar.

Psalm 51.

When You Are Prosperous

So, then, let him who thinks he is standing, see to it that he does not fall.

No trial has come on you, but such as man can bear. But God is to be relied on, and he will not allow you to be tried above your strength; but will, with the trial, also make the way out of it, so that you may be able to bear it.

1 Corinthians 10: 12, 13.

The prosperity of fools will destroy them.
Proverbs 1:32.

He who covers his sins will not prosper.
Proverbs 28:13.

When Anxious and Worried

Don't lay up for yourselves treasures on earth,
Where moth and rust consume,
And where thieves break through and steal.
But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven,
Where neither moth nor rust consume,
And where thieves do not break through and steal.
For where your treasure is,
There will your heart be also.

The lamp of the body is the eye,
So if your eye be sound,
Your whole body will be full of light.
But if your eye be diseased,
Your whole body will be full of darkness.
So if the light which is in you be darkness,
How great is that darkness!

No one can be a servant to two masters.
For either he will hate the one,
And love the other;
Or else he will hold to the one,
And despise the other.
You cannot be a servant to God and Money.

For that reason I say to you:
Don't be anxious about your life,
As to what you shall eat, or, what you shall drink,
Nor yet, about your body, as to what you shall put on.
Is not the life more than the food?
And the body than its clothes?
Look at the birds of the air.
They don't sow,
Nor do they reap,
Nor gather into barns.
And yet your heavenly Father feeds them.
Aren't you much better than they?

And which of you by being anxious,
Can add one hour to the length of his life?
And why are you anxious about clothes?
Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow.
They don't toil, nor spin,
And yet, I say to you, not even Solomon in all his splendid apparel,
Was arrayed like one of these.
If, then, God so clothes the grass of the field,
Which is living to-day,
And to-morrow is thrown into the oven,
Will he not much more clothe you?
O you of little faith!
So don't be anxious saying:
What shall we eat?
Or, what shall we drink?

Or, what shall we wear?
For all these things do the heathen seek.
For your heavenly Father knows you need all these things.
But seek first his rule and goodness,
And all these things beside will be given to you.
So don't be anxious about to-morrow.
For to-morrow will have its own anxieties.
Enough for the day is its own trouble.
Matthew 6: 19-34.

When In Danger

He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High,
Will abide under the shadow of the Almighty.
I will say of the Lord: He is my refuge, and my fortress;
My God. In him will I trust.
Surely he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler,
From the noisome pestilence.
He will cover you with his feathers,
And under his wings will you trust.
His truth will be your shield and buckler.
You will not be afraid for the terror by night,
For the arrow that flies by day,
For the pestilence that walks in darkness,
For the destruction that wastes at noonday.

WHEN IN DANGER

A thousand will fall at your side,
And ten thousand at your right hand.
It will not come near you.
Only with your eyes will you look at,
And see, the reward of the wicked.
Because you have made the Lord—my refuge—
The Most High, your habitation,
There will no evil happen you.
Neither will any plague come near your dwelling.
For he will give his angels charge over you,
To keep you in all your ways.
They will bear you up in their hands,
Lest you dash your foot against a stone.
You will tread on the lion and adder,
The young lion and the dragon will you trample under feet.
Because he has set his love on me,
Therefore will I deliver him.
I will set him on high,
Because he has known my name.
He will call on me, and I will answer him.
I will be with him in trouble.
I will deliver him, and honor him.
With long life will I satisfy him,
And show him my salvation.

Psalm 91.

In the shadow of your wings
Will I make my refuge,
Till calamities have passed.

Psalm 57:1.

I will abide in your tabernacle forever,
I will trust in the covert of your wings.
Psalm 61 : 4.

When Troubled With Doubts

"If any one wills to do his will, he will learn to know about the teaching, whether it is from God, or whether I speak from myself." Jesus.
John 7 : 17.

When You Are Down and Out

What, then, shall we say to these things?
If God is for us, who is against us?
He who didn't spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all, how shall he not also with him freely give us everything?
Who shall bring a charge against God's chosen ones?
God is the one who considers them as good.
Who is he who condemns?
Christ Jesus is the one who died, yes, rather, who was raised from the dead, who is at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.
Who shall separate us from the love of the Christ?
Shall affliction, or distress, or persecution, or hunger, or destitution, or danger, or death?
Just as it is written:

For your sake are we killed all the day long.
We are counted as sheep for slaughter.
Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.
For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:31-39.

When You Are In Need of Courage

Now after the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, it came to pass, that the Lord spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, saying: "Moses my servant is dead. So now rise. Go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I give to them—to the children of Israel. Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread on, have I given to you as I said to Moses, from the wilderness and this Lebanon, even to the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and to the great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your boundary. No man will be able to stand before you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, I will be with you. I will not fail you, nor forsake you. Be strong, and of a good courage. For you will divide to this people for an inheritance the land

which I swore to their fathers to give them. Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses my servant commanded you. Don't turn from it to the right hand, or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go.

"This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

"Have not I commanded you?

"Be strong and of a good courage. Don't be afraid. Neither be dismayed. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

Joshua 1:1-9.

When In Need of Rest and Peace

At that time Jesus answered, and said:

"I thank you, Father, Lord of Heaven and earth, that though you have hid these things from wise and knowing ones, you have revealed them to babes. Yes, Father, for so it seemed good in your sight.

"Everything has been committed to me by my Father. And no one fully knows the Son, except the Father. Nor does any one fully know the Father, except the Son, and he to whomever the Son wills to reveal him.

WHEN GOING AWAY FOR PLEASURE

"Come unto me, all you toiling and burdened ones,
And I will give you rest.
Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me;
Because I am meek and lowly in heart.
And you will find refreshing rest for yourselves.
For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."
Matthew 11:25-29.

When Going Away For Pleasure or Profit

I will lift up my eyes to the hills.
From where does my help come?
My help comes from the Lord,
Who made heaven and earth.
He will not allow your foot to be moved.
He who keeps you will not become drowsy.
Listen! He who keeps Israel
Will neither become drowsy nor sleep.
The Lord is your keeper.
The Lord is your shade on your right hand.
The sun will not strike you by day,
Nor the moon by night.
The Lord will preserve you from all evil.
He will preserve your soul.
The Lord will preserve your going out and your coming in,
From this time forth, yes, even for evermore.
Psalm 121.

The Secret of Getting Along With Men

So I urge you, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living sacrifice, pure and pleasing to God—your reasonable and religious duty. And don't copy the changing fashions of this world, but undergo a deep and abiding change, by the renewing of your mind, so that you may be able to learn by experience what God's will is—his good, and acceptable, and perfect will.

For through the favor given me, I say to every one among you, not to think more of himself than he ought to think, but to consider soberly how he should regulate his life in harmony with the measure of faith God has severally given to each. For just as we have many members in one body, but all the members haven't the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, but individually members with each other.

So having gifts differing according to the favor given to us, let us use them aright.

If spiritual insight, in proportion to the faith,
  If a duty, doing the duty;
If any one teaches, in teaching,
  If any one exhorts, in exhorting;
Let him who gives, give liberally,
  Let him who presides over others, do it with zealous care.
Let him who engages in works of mercy, do it cheerfully.

Let love be without hypocrisy.
Abhor the evil. Cleave to the good.
In brotherly love cherish affection for each other.
In honor give each other the preference.
Not lacking in earnestness; fervent in spirit,
Serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope;
Enduring in trouble; persevering in prayer;
Relieving the necessities of Christians; practicing hospitality.
Bless those who persecute you.
Bless and don't curse.
Rejoice with those who rejoice.
Weep with those who weep.
Be of the same mind toward each other.
Don't set your mind on high things,
But be content with the lowly.
Don't become wise in your own conceits.
Render to no one evil for evil.
Care for what is noble in the sight of all men.
If it be possible, so far as you are concerned,
Live in peace with all men.
Don't avenge yourselves, dearly beloved ones,
But give place to wrath. For it is written;
Vengeance is mine, I will repay,
Says the Lord.
But if your enemy is hungry, feed him.
If he is thirsty, give him a drink.
For by so doing,
You will heap coals of fire on his head.
Don't be overcome by evil,
But overcome evil with good.

Romans 12.

When Thinking of Investments and Returns

As Jesus was going out into the road, a man ran to him, and kneeled to him, and asked him: "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"

Jesus said to him: "Why do you call me good? No one is good but one—God. You know the commandments:

Don't murder.
Don't commit adultery.
Don't steal.
Don't bear false witness.
Don't defraud.
Honor your father and mother."

He said to him: "Teacher, all these have I observed from my youth."

Jesus looking at him, loved him, and said to him: "One thing you lack. Go sell whatever you have, and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come follow me."

But his face clouded at the saying, and he went away sad. For he was a man who had great possessions.

Then looking round, Jesus said to his disciples: "How hardly will those who have possessions enter into the rule of God."

The disciples were amazed at his words.

But answering again, Jesus said to them:

"Children, how hard it is for those who trust in riches to enter into the rule of God! It's easier for a camel to go through a needle's eye, than for a rich man to enter into the rule of God."

They were astonished beyond measure, saying to him: "Then who can be saved?"

Looking at them, Jesus said: "With men it is impossible, but not with God. For everything is possible with God."

Peter began to say to him: "Listen! We have left everything, and have followed you."

Jesus said: "Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house, or brothers, or sisters, or mother, or father, or children, or lands, for my sake, and for the sake of the Good News, but he will receive a hundredfold more in this time—houses, and brothers, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands—with persecutions, and in the coming world eternal life.

"But many who are first will be last; and the last first."

Mark 10: 17-31.

When God Seems Far Away

O Lord, you have searched,
And known me.
You know my downsitting and my uprising.
You understand my thoughts away off.
You compass my path and my lying down,
And are acquainted with all my ways.

For there is not a word in my tongue,
  But you, O Lord, know it altogether.
You have beset me behind and before,
  And laid your hand on me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me.
  It is high. I cannot attain to it.
Where shall I go from your Spirit?
  Oh, where shall I flee from your presence?
If I ascend up into heaven, you are there.
  If I make my bed in hell, you are there, also.
If I take the wings of the morning—
  Dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea;
Even there will your hand lead me,
  And your right hand will hold me.
If I say, Surely the darkness will cover me,
  Even the night will be light about me.
Yes, the darkness does not hide from you,
  But the night shines as the day,
  The darkness and the light—both alike—
For you have possessed my reins.
  You have covered me in my mother's womb.
I will praise you.
  For I am fearfully—wonderfully made.
Marvelous are your works,
  And my soul knows it right well.
My substance was not hid from you,
  When I was made in secret—
  Curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.
Your eyes saw my substance
  When it was still imperfect,

And in your book were all my parts written—
What day they should be fashioned,
When as yet there was none of them.
How precious are your thoughts to me!
O God! how great is the sum of them!
If I should count them,
They are more in number than the sand.
When I awake, I am still with you.
Search me, O God, and know my heart.
Try me, and know my thoughts;
And see if there be any wicked way in me,
And lead me in the eternal way.

Psalm 139.

When You Give Alms

Be careful not to do your good deeds before men to be seen by them; else you have no reward with your Father in the heavens.

So when you do charitable deeds, don't have a trumpet blown before you, as the hypocrites do, in the synagogues, and in the streets, that they may be held in honor by men. Truly I say to you: They have received their reward.

But when you do charitable deeds, don't let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, that your charity may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will recompense you.

Don't lay up for yourselves treasures on the earth, where moth and rust consume, and where thieves break through and steal.

But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven,

where neither moth nor rust consume, and where thieves do not break through nor steal.

For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Matthew 6: 1-4, and 19-21.

When Suffering Wrong

Then Peter came and said to him: "Lord, how often am I to forgive my brother when he wrongs me? Up to seven times?"

Jesus said to him: "I don't say to you, Up to seven times, but, Up to seventy times seven. For that reason the rule of the heavens is made like a certain king who determined to have a settlement of accounts with his slaves. And when he had begun the settlement, one was brought to him who owed him fifty million dollars. But as he had not the means to pay, his master ordered him to be sold, and his wife and children, and all he had, and payment to be made.

"So the slave fell down at his feet, and said: Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.

"So the master of that slave took pity on him and released him, and forgave him the debt.

"But that slave went out, and found one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred dollars, and he seized him, and nearly choked him, saying: Pay what you owe. So his fellow slave fell down and begged him, saying: Have patience with me and I will pay you.

But he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay what was due.

"So when his fellow slaves saw what was done, they were greatly distressed, and went and told their master all about it.

"Then his master called him to him, and said to him: You wicked fellow, I forgave you all that debt, because you begged me. Oughtn't you also to have had pity on your fellow slave, just as I had pity on you?

"So his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers, till he should pay all that was due.

"In the same way, also, will my heavenly Father deal with you, if each one of you does not forgive his brother from his heart."

Matthew 18: 21-35.

Don't judge,
That you may not be judged.
For with the judgment with which you judge,
You will be judged.
And with the measure with which you measure
It will be measured to you.
And why do you look at the mote in your brother's eye,
But don't consider the beam in your own eye?
What! How will you say to your brother,
Let me take the mote out of your eye,
And, listen, the beam is in your own eye.
You hypocrite!

THINKING RIGHT IS LIVING RIGHT

First take the beam out of your own eye,
And then will you see clearly
To take the mote out of your brother's eye.
Matthew 7: 1-5.

When Going to War

God is our refuge and strength,
A very present help in trouble.
Therefore will we not fear,
Though the earth be removed,
And though the mountains be carried
Into the midst of the sea.
Though its waters roar and are troubled,
Though the mountains shake with the swelling of it.
The Lord of Hosts is with us.
The God of Jacob is our refuge.

There is a river whose streams make glad
The City of God,
The Holy Place of the tabernacles of the Most High.
God is in the midst of her.
She will not be moved.
God will help her
When the morning appears.
The nations raged,
The kingdoms were moved.
He uttered his voice.
The earth melted.

WHEN GOING TO WAR

The Lord of Hosts is with us.
The God of Jacob is our refuge.
Come, look at the works of the Lord.
What desolations he has made in the earth.
He makes wars to cease to the end of the earth.
He breaks the bow and cuts the spear in two.
He burns the chariots in the fire.
Be still, and know that I am God.
I will be exalted among the nations.
I will be exalted in the earth.
The Lord of Hosts is with us.
The God of Jacob is our refuge.

Psalm 46.

To every thing there is a season,
And a time to every purpose under the sun:
A time to love,
And a time to hate;
A time of war,
And a time of peace.

Ecclesiastes 3:1, 8.

Proclaim this among the nations:
Prepare war.
Stir up the mighty men.
Let all the men of war draw near.
Let them come.
Beat your plowshares into swords,
Your pruning hooks into spears.
Let the weak say: I am strong.

Put in the sickle,
For the harvest is ripe.
Come, tread,
For the wine press is full;
The vats overflow.
For their wickedness is great.

Multitudes, multitudes,
In the Valley of Decision!
For the day of the Lord is near
In the Valley of Decision.
The sun and the moon are darkened,
And the stars withdraw their shining.
And the Lord will roar from Zion,
And utter his voice from Jerusalem;
And the heavens and the earth will shake.
But the Lord will be a refuge for his people,
A stronghold for the children of Israel.

Joel 3:9-16.

When Going Into Battle

When you go out to battle against your enemies and see horses and chariots—a people more numerous than you, don't be afraid of them. For the Lord your God is with you. Don't be afraid. For the Lord your God is he who is going with you, to fight for you against your enemies, to save you.

Deut. 20:1, 3, 4.

WHEN GOING INTO BATTLE

When the army goes out against your enemies, then keep yourself from every evil thing.
Deut. 23:9.

Don't be afraid of them. For I have delivered them into your hand (power). There shall not a man of them then stand before you.
Joshua 10:8.

The Lord doesn't save with sword and spear.
The battle is the Lord's.
1 Sam. 17:47.

The Lord is my rock, and my fortress,
My deliverer, yes, mine;
The God of my rock,
In him will I trust;
My shield and the strength of my salvation,
My high tower and my refuge
My Saviour, you save me from violence.
I will call on the Lord,
Who is worthy to be praised,
So shall I be saved from my enemies.

For the waves of death compassed me,
The floods of ungodliness made me afraid.
The chords of Sheol were round about me,
The snares of death seized me.
In my distress I called on the Lord,
Yes, I called on my God

And he heard my voice out of his temple,
My cry came into his ears.
He sent from on high, he took me.
He drew me out of many waters.
He delivered me from my strong enemy,
From those who hated me.
For they were too mighty for me.
They came on me in the day of my calamity.
But the Lord was my stay.
He brought me out also into a large place;
He delivered me,
Because he delighted in me.

With the merciful you will show yourself merciful.
With the perfect man you will show yourself perfect.
With the pure you will show yourself pure,
With the perverse you will show yourself forward.
And the afflicted people you will save.
But your eyes are on the haughty,
That you may bring them down.

For you are my lamp, O Lord.
The Lord will lighten my darkness.
For by you I run upon a troop.
By my God I leap over a wall.
As for God, his way is perfect.
The word of the Lord is tried.

WHEN GOING INTO BATTLE

He is a shield
To all those who trust in him.
For who is God, but the Lord?
Who is a rock, but our God?
God is my strong fortress.
He guides the perfect in his way.
He makes his feet like hinds' feet.
And sets me upon high places.
He teaches my hands to war;
So that my arms bend a bow of brass.
You have also given me the shield of your salvation.
And your gentleness has made me great.

I have pursued my enemies,
And destroyed them;
Neither did I turn again
Till they were consumed.
I have consumed them and smitten them through
That they cannot rise.
Yes, they have fallen under my feet.
For you have girded me with strength
Unto the battle.
You have subdued under me
Those who rose up against me.
You have also made my enemies
Turn their backs to me,
That I might cut off
Those who hate me.

The Lord lives.
And blessed be my Rock.

And exalted be the God
  Of the Rock of my salvation.
I will give thanks to you, O Lord,
  Among the nations.
And will sing praises to your name.
2 Sam. 22: 2-50.

After a Battle

I will sing unto the Lord,
  For he has triumphed gloriously.
The horse and his rider
  Has he thrown into the sea.
The Lord is my strength and song.
  He has become my salvation.
This is my God, and I will praise him—
  My father's God, and I will exalt him.

The Lord is a man of war,
  The Lord is his name.
Pharaoh's chariots and his army
  Has he thrown into the sea.
His chosen generals
  Are sunk in the Red Sea.
The deeps cover them.
  They went down into the depths like a stone.

Your right hand, O Lord,
  Is glorious in power.
Your right hand, O Lord,
  Dashes the enemy in pieces.

AFTER A BATTLE

In the greatness of your excellency
You overthrow those who rise up against you.
You send out your wrath,
It consumes them as stubble.
With the blast of your nostrils
The waters were piled up.
The floods stood right up in a heap.
The deeps were made solid in the heart of the sea.

The enemy said: I will pursue. I will overtake.
I will divide the spoil.
My lust shall be satisfied on them.
I will draw my sword,
My hand shall destroy them.
You blew with your wind,
The sea covered them.
They sank as lead in the mighty waters.

Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods?
Who is like you, glorious in holiness,
Fearful in praises, doing wonders?
You stretched out your right hand,
The earth swallowed them.
You, in your mercy have led the people
Whom you have redeemed.
You have guided them, in your strength,
To your holy habitation.

The Lord shall rule forever and ever.

Sing to the Lord.
For he has triumphed gloriously.
The horse and his rider
Has he thrown into the sea.
Exodus 15:1-21.

When Desiring Peace

But in the last days,
The mountain of the house of the Lord
Will be established at the head of the mountains,
And it will be exalted above the hills,
And peoples will flow to it.
And many nations will go
And say:
Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
To the house of the God of Jacob.
And he will teach us of his ways,
And we will walk in his paths.
For out of Zion will go the law,
And the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.
And he will judge between many peoples,
And will reprove strong nations afar off.
And they will beat their swords into plowshares,
And their spears into pruning hooks.
Nation will not lift up sword against nation,
Neither will they learn war any more,
But they will sit every man under his vine,
And under his figtree,
And none will make them afraid.
For the mouth of the Lord of Hosts
Has spoken it. Micah 4:1-4.

The Supreme Sacrifice

Who has believed our report?
And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?
For he will grow up before him as a tender plant,
And as a root out of a dry ground.
He has no form, nor comeliness;
And when we shall see him,
No beauty that we should desire him.
He is despised and rejected by men;
A man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief.
And we hid as it were our faces from him.
He was despised, and we did not esteem him.
Surely he has borne our griefs,
And carried our sorrows.
Yet we esteemed him stricken,
Smitten by God, and afflicted.
But he was wounded for our transgressions,
He was bruised for our iniquities.
The chastisement of our peace was on him,
And with his stripes we are healed.
All we like sheep, have gone astray;
We have turned, everyone, to his own way;
And the Lord has laid on him
The iniquity of us all.
He was oppressed, and he was afflicted;
Yet he did not open his mouth.

He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter,
And as a sheep before her shearers is mute,
So he does not open his mouth.
He was taken from prison, and from judgment.
And who shall declare his generation?
For he was cut off out of the land of the living,
For the transgression of my people was he stricken.
And he made his grave with the wicked,
And with the rich, in his death;
Because he had done no violence,
Neither was any deceit in his mouth.
Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise him;
He has put him to grief;
When you shall make his soul an offering for sin,
He will see his seed, he will prolong his days,
And the pleasure of the Lord
Will prosper in his hand.
He will see the travail of his soul,
And will be satisfied.
By his knowledge
Will my righteous servant justify many,
For he will bear their iniquities.
Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great,
And he will divide the spoil with the strong;
Because he has poured out his soul to death;
And he was counted with the transgressors;
And he bore the sin of many,
And made intercession for the transgressors.

Isaiah 53.

The Universal Invitation

Ho! Everyone who is thirsty. Come to the waters.
Even he who has no money. Come. Buy and eat.
Yes, come. Buy wine and milk without money, and without price.
Why do you spend money for what is not bread?
And your labor for what does not satisfy?
Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good.
And let your soul delight itself in fatness.
Incline your ear, and come to me.
Listen, and you will live.
And I will make an everlasting covenant with you—
The sure mercies of David.
Listen! I have given him for a witness to the people,
A leader and commander to the people.
Listen! You will call a nation you do not know,
And nations that did not know you will run to you.
Because of the Lord your God, and for the Holy One of Israel;
For he has glorified you.
Seek the Lord while he may be found.
Call on him while he is near.

Let the wicked forsake his way,
And the bad man his thoughts,
And let him return to the Lord,
And he will have mercy on him;
And to our God,
For he will abundantly pardon.
For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
Neither are your ways my ways, says the Lord.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
So are my ways higher than your ways,
And my thoughts than your thoughts.
For as the rain comes down, and the snow, from heaven,
And does not return there,
But waters the earth, and makes it produce and bud,
That it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater;
So will the word that goes out of my mouth be:
It will not return to me void.
But it will accomplish what I please,
And it will prosper so fast as I sent it.
For you will go out with joy,
And be led forth with peace.
The mountains and the hills
Will break out before you into singing.
And all the trees of the field
Will clap their hands.
Instead of the thorn, will come up the fir tree,
And instead of the brier, will come up the myrtle tree.

And it will be to the Lord a name,
For an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Isaiah 55.

The Wonderful Result

The wilderness and the solitary place
Will be glad for them.
And the desert will rejoice,
And blossom as the rose.
It will blossom abundantly, and rejoice,
Yes, with joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon will be given to it,
The excellence of Carmel and Sharon.
They will see the glory of the Lord,
The excellency of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands,
And confirm the feeble knees.
Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
Be strong. Don't be afraid.
Listen! Your God will come with vengeance,
God, with a recompense.
He will come and save you.
Then the eyes of the blind will be opened,
And the ears of the deaf will be unstopped.
Then will the lame leap as a hart,
And the tongue of the mute sing.
For in the wilderness will waters break out,
And streams in the desert.

And the parched ground will become a pool,
And the thirsty land springs of water.
In the lair of dragons, where each lay—
Grass, with reeds and rushes.
And a highway will be there, and a way,
And it will be called, The Way of Holiness.
The unclean will not pass over it,
But it will be for them.
The wayfaring men, though fools,
Will not err in it.
No lion will be there,
Nor will a ravenous beast go up on it.
It will not be found there.
But the redeemed will walk there.
And the ransomed of the Lord will return
And come to Zion with songs,
And everlasting joy on their heads.
They will obtain joy and gladness,
And sorrow and sighing will flee away.
Isaiah 35.

THE END.

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